



Indiana Department of Education

SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

Minutes of December 11, 2007

The Professional Standards Advisory Board met at the Department of Education, Riley Room, 151 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

DISCUSSION SESSION

Board members present included Albertine Dent, Russell Hodgkin, Michael Jones, David Kinman, Elise Matthews, Marilyn Metzler, and Kathy Parks. John Hill, Mike Horvath, Gertrude Howard, Nancy Kuyoth, Mike Lewis, Suellen Reed, and Roy Weaver were unable to attend.

Staff members present included Terri Banks, Becky Bridges, Katie Martin, Mary Glenn Rinne, Elizabeth Schwamb, Shawn Sriver, and Debby Williams.

I. Call to Order

It was established at the beginning of the meeting that Ms. Kathy Parks would act as temporary Chair for the December meeting.

Ms. Parks called the Discussion Session of the Professional Standards Advisory Board to order at 10:29 a.m.

Mr. Sriver announced that Dr. Reed sent her regrets for missing the meeting because of an important press conference followed by a question and answer session. Due to weather conditions, a number of members were not able to attend; as a result, items on the Business Session of this meeting will be moved to the March 19, 2008 meeting.

Ms. Parks personally acknowledged members of the test waiver work group.

II. Presentation on Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) Exam by Educational Testing Service – Ines Bosworth, Consultant, Educational Testing Service

Ms. Bosworth gave a history of the exams that ETS is responsible for administering, including the SAT, GRE, NTE Core Battery, and Praxis tests. The pedagogy test which was a part of the Core Battery (known as the Professional Knowledge exam) was always criticized for having only multiple choice questions. The NTE Core Battery was phased out in 1999.

She introduced the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) exam, which focuses on pedagogy. The main change in the PLT test is that it is case study based. Two-thirds of the test includes constructive response and one-third is multiple choice.

There are four developmental levels of the test:

PLT: Early Childhood

PLT: Grades K - 6

PLT: Grades 5 – 9

PLT: Grades 7 – 12

In most states, program completers obtaining a K – 12 license are able to select the proper PLT test assessment suitable for themselves. This is allowed because the core of each test is similar.

Conceptual framework and format are the same for all tests. The change occurs with the content and context of the case studies. Not all standards can be measured.

Educational Testing Services offers “Tests at a Glance” free on-line for every test they offer. These are beneficial for preparation of actual test-taking.

Many states use both the PLT and Praxis I tests. The Praxis I test is primarily used for entry to teacher education programs. The PLT measures the pedagogy area of teacher education. The cost for the PLT test is \$140.00 due to the intensive scoring that is needed.

Following are steps for adopting the PLT test:

Step 1 – Test Review: a panel is formed to examine test specifications and review against state standards. The panel recommends whether the exam should enter Step 2.

Step 2 – Validation and Standard-Setting: four panels created, one per PLT developmental group, consisting of 10 - 20 members of Indiana teachers and higher education staff per panel. ETS facilitates the panel by training panelists to make judgments on job relevance of questions and to determine the percent of beginning teachers who would know the answer to each question. ETS will also assist in interpreting data and recommending a required score. ETS provides all costs except for substitute teaching pay.

Ms. Bosworth comments were supported with a PowerPoint that will be available on our website. Ms. Bosworth answered questions from the Board.

III. Discussion: Next Steps for Praxis I Replacement – Shawn Sriver, Director, and Debby Williams, Assistant Director, Division of Professional Standards

Mr. Sriver recognized the work group members participating in this project.

Mr. Sriver introduced the options for the advisory board:

Option 1 – Selection of an already existing pedagogy exam (PLT). Work could begin immediately with ETS to determine Indiana cut-off scores. This would require no additional test development and could be implemented more quickly.

Option 2 – Send out call for a broad agency announcement to all testing companies who may have an existing exam. This would allow Indiana to petition for the best deal. This would take more time than option #1, but shorter than option #3.

Option 3 – Development of a new exam through a testing company. This would give Indiana a customized test based on Indiana standards. If this option were selected, a Request for Proposal (RFP) would need to be completed. This would require at least two additional years to implement and require extensive work on the part of the board and staff.

Option 4 – Continue with Praxis I.

Options #1-#3 would include the elimination of Praxis I as the exam required for licensure. Institutions could continue to use Praxis I for entry into their teacher education program at their discretion. They would not be bound to a state cut-off score.

Mr. Sriver stated he would like the Board to come to a consensus regarding the option that staff should pursue at the March 19 meeting.

IV. Other

Debby Williams introduced Elizabeth Schwamb, Education Specialist as a new member of the Educator Licensing staff.

Ms. Williams stated she sent a request in the superintendent's mail for teachers in grades K – 3 to participate in a standards setting study. She has received only a few nominees and requested the Board members to send names to her.

Mr. Sriver announced our division's new name is the Office of Educator Licensing and Development. For official documents, including those related to rule promulgation, the division's name would be the "Division of Professional Standards," because of the use of this name in the statute.

V. Public Comments

Carole Craig, Co-Chair NAACP -

Ms. Craig is requesting support from the Board for a study committee to initiate strategies to increase the percentage of minority teachers.

Ms. Craig expressed concern about Dean Khaula Murtadha's resignation from the School of Education at I.U.P.U.I. and would like the Board to investigate the circumstances of governance between Bloomington and I.U.P.U.I. regarding this situation.

Ms. Craig stated another concern of lack of definitions and/or explanations of "various environments," "courses and methods," and "guidelines" regarding cultural competence legislation.

Kathy Moran, University of Indianapolis –

Dr. Moran, a member of the Teacher Education Committee, expressed a concern over the number of teachers failing the Praxis test. She would like the Board to look at the cut scores on the Praxis I tests and compare them to other states. She feels that Praxis I, which measures basic skills, is unnecessary given that basic skills are measured [by the institution where the candidate completes his/her program] through the SAT, ACT, and the Core 40 expectations in schools.

Indiana has an elaborate and unique unit assessment system in Indiana for every licensing area. Dr. Moran asked if there was evidence to show that the current unit assessment system is not working. She further asked why an additional exam was needed to assess basic skills when institutions already have the responsibility of assessing basic skills as part of the unit assessment system requirement.

Dr. Moran also inquired whether ETS has data on the PLT that would predict score results relative to K – 12 student learning.

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Kathy Parks adjourned the discussion session at 11:53 a.m.

BUSINESS MEETING

DUE TO WEATHER, ITEMS ON THE AGENDA OF THE BUSINESS MEETING WILL BE MOVED TO THE MARCH 19, 2008 MEETING.

List of Attendees

The following attended the discussion session :

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Kathryn Lee	Indiana Civil Rights Commission
Adam VanOsdol	Indiana Education Insight
Mary Jo Germani	ISHA
Marilynn Edwards	Indiana State Teachers Association
Mark Shoup	Indiana State Teachers Association
Brian Coldren	Indiana State University
Ken Coleman	Indiana State University
Judy Sheese	Indiana State University
Carole Craig	NAACP
Patricia Swails	Oakland City University
Scott Bogan	Purdue University – West Lafayette
Kathy Moran	University of Indianapolis
Beverly Reitsma	University of Indianapolis